Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 36-40, 43, and 69. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1.-35. (Canceled).

36. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling the temperature of a biological specimen in indirect contact with a solid support member by using induction heating~~, said specimen being in contact with a carrier onto which capture probes for capturing said specimen are fixed,~~ and a carrier for a biological specimen, said carrier being removably placed in proximity to said solid support member, said solid support member includes a cartridge for [[a]] said carrier or a cover plate for [[a]] said carrier and comprising [[a]] an electrically conducting material, said electrically conducting material being in contact with a layer of heat conducting material, said heat conducting material is in contact with the specimen, and said method comprising a step of subjecting said solid support to an oscillating magnetic field.

37. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 36, wherein said solid support member includes a cartridge having a chamber encompassed by a cartridge wall, said carrier ~~carrying said specimen or said capture probes~~ being placed in said chamber and said chamber being subjected to a magnetic field, said chamber includes at least one access opening for introducing the carrier, and for passing a processing fluid into and out of the chamber.

38. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 37 wherein said conducting material includes the form of a solid piece of electrically conducting material placed on the inner side of said cartridge wall, or the form of one or more solid pieces or particles of electrically conducting material incorporated in the wall of said cartridge.

39. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 37, wherein said carrier includes a microscope slide, said cartridge comprising a chamber, and at least one access opening for introducing and withdrawing said slide, and having at least one opening for passing a processing fluid into and out of the chamber, said microscope slide is placed in said chamber~~, and bears said specimen or said capture probes~~.

40. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 36, wherein said carrier comprises a microscope slide bearing a specimen or capture probes for capturing a specimen said solid support member includes a cover plate for [[a]] said microscope slide, said cover plate comprising an ~~electric~~ electrically conducting material, said specimen or said capture probes being fixed onto said microscope slide and placed between said cover plate and said slide when subjecting said solid support to an oscillating magnetic field.

41. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein the electrically conducting material includes a metal.

42. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 41, wherein said metal is selected from a group consisting of iron, carbon steel, stainless steel, brass, copper, aluminum, silver, gold, platinum, nickel, zinc, pewter and alloys thereof.

43. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 36, wherein the electrically conducting material is in the form of one or more plates, having a length, a width, and a thickness, said length and said width being at least ten times the thickness.

44. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein the electrically conducting material is in the form of powder incorporated in a polymer material, the amount of powder being sufficiently high to raise the temperature of the specimen when the solid support is subjected to the oscillating magnetic field.

45. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 44, wherein said specimen is in the form of a solid specimen, preferably a tissue section or a section of cell blocks.

46. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein said solid support includes an amount of electrically conducting material sufficiently high to raise the temperature of the specimen when the solid support is subjected to the oscillating magnetic field.

47. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein said magnetic field is generated by use of an electromagnetic inductor having an induction coil and a power supply, and directing alternating current through said coil.

48. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 47, wherein said power supply includes an alternating current power supply.

49. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 47, wherein said alternating current power includes a frequency in the range of between 1 Hz and 500 kHz.

50. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 47, wherein alternating current is delivered through said coil in an amount of power up to about 100 W.

51. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, comprising a step of heating the specimen to a temperature in the range of between 25 and 110°C.

52. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein the specimen is heated and maintained at a constant temperature for a period in the range of between one minute and up to one week.

53. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein the specimen is dried or fixed or both at an elevated temperature.

54. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein the specimen is subjected to a reaction step at an elevated temperature, said reaction step includes one or more of the steps capturing the specimen, baking the specimen, exposing the specimen to antigen retrieval, denaturing the specimen, hybridizating the specimen, dewaxing the specimen and washing the specimen.

55. (Previously presented) A method for carrying out an automatic or semi-automatic assay of one or more specimens each fixed on a microscope slide, comprising the steps of:

i) placing the microscope slide in a cartridge comprising a chamber encompassed by a cartridge wall having an inner side, said cartridge comprising an electrically conducting material in the form of a solid piece of conducting material placed on the inner side of said cartridge wall, or in the form of one or more solid pieces or particles of conducting material incorporated in the wall of said cartridge; and

ii) placing the cartridge in an induction coil and sending alternating current through said coil to generate a magnetic field.

56. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 55 including an automatic or semi-automatic assay of two or more specimens, comprising the additional steps of:

iii) placing each microscope slide individually in a cartridge including a chamber encompassed by a cartridge wall, said cartridge comprising an electrically conducting material in the form of a solid piece of conducting material placed on the inner side of said cartridge wall, or in the form of one or more solid pieces or particles of conducting material incorporated in the wall of said cartridge; and

iv) placing each cartridge individually in an induction coil and sending alternating current through said coil to generate a magnetic field.

57.-68. (Canceled)

69. (Currently amended) A solid support member in combination with a carrier and an electromagnetic inductor, said support member being a support member for testing or treating a specimen of biological material, said support member comprising electrically conducting material on the surface turning against the side of the carrier carrying the specimen, and said electromagnetic inductor being able to generate a magnetic field.

70. (Previously presented) A solid support member in combination with an inductor according to claim 69, wherein said inductor comprises an induction coil and a power supply, said coil, preferably being sufficiently large to surround the support member, and said power supply being able to sending alternating current through said coil.

71. (Previously presented) A solid support member according to claim 70, wherein said power supply includes an AC power supply.

72. (Previously presented) A solid support member according to claim 71, wherein said AC power includes a frequency in the range of between 1 Hz and 500 kHz.

73. (Previously presented) Use of a support member in combination with an inductor according to claim 69 for treatment of a biological specimen.

74. (Previously presented) Use of a support member according to claim 73 for immunohistochemical procedures or *in situ* hybridization.